

Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for indicating an integrated circuit to enter into a scan mode,
5 comprising:
utilizing a designated signal for an analog block of an integrated circuit for
indicating entry of a digital block of the integrated circuit into a scan mode wherein
operations of the analog block and the digital block are generally independent from
each other in the scan mode.
10
2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:
prior to the digital block utilizing the designated signal, resolving voltage rails
for the designated signal with other voltage rails of a digital supply signal for the
digital block.
15
3. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the designated signal is an
analog supply signal and wherein resolving voltage rails further comprises in
response to the scan mode being activated upon a high value:
setting the analog supply signal to a low analog value;
20 inverting, by an inverter, the low analog value to a high digital value; and
providing the high digital value to the digital block to signify entry into the
scan mode.
4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein alternatively the scan mode is
25 activated upon a low value and further comprising:
inverting, by another inverter, the high digital value to a low digital value; and
providing the low digital value to the digital block to signify entry into the scan
mode.
30

5. The method according to Claim 4, further comprising:
in the event that the analog supply signal is much lower than the digital supply signal, setting a trip point of the inverter to a lower-than-normal value.
- 5 6. The method according to Claim 5, wherein setting a trip point of the inverter to a lower-than-normal value further comprises:
re-sizing widths of transistor gates of the inverter.
7. An integrated circuit, comprising:
10 an analog block; and
a digital block coupled to the analog block; and
wherein a designated signal for the analog block is utilized for indicating entry of the digital block into a scan mode; and
wherein operations of the analog block and digital block are generally
15 independent from each other in the scan mode.
8. The integrated circuit according to Claim 7, wherein prior to the digital block utilizing the designated signal, voltage rails for the designated signal are resolved with other voltage rails of a digital supply signal for the digital block.
20
9. The integrated circuit according to Claim 8, further comprising:
an inverter coupled before an input of the digital block; and
wherein the designated signal is an analog supply signal; and
wherein, in response to the scan mode being activated upon a high value,
25 the analog supply signal is set to a low analog value, the inverter inverts the low analog value to a high digital value, and the high digital value is provided to the digital block to signify entry into the scan mode.
10. The integrated circuit according to Claim 9, further comprising:
30 another inverter coupled after the inverter and before the input of the digital block; and

wherein alternatively the scan mode is activated upon a low value, the another inverter inverts the high digital value to a low digital value, and the low digital value is provided to the digital block to signify entry into the scan mode.

- 5 11. The integrated circuit according to Claim 10, wherein, in the event that the analog supply signal is much lower than the digital supply signal, a trip point of the inverter is set to a lower-than-normal value.
- 10 12. The integrated circuit according to Claim 11, wherein the trip point of the inverter is set to a lower-than-normal value by re-sizing widths of transistor gates of the inverter.
- 15 13. A method for utilizing in an integrated circuit a signal that is designated for one purpose for one block for another purpose by another block, comprising:
sending a signal that is solely designated for one purpose for one block to another block; and
using the signal, by the another block, for another purpose wherein operations of the one block and the another block are generally mutually exclusive
20 during a special mode of operation.
- 25 14. The method according to Claim 13, wherein the one block is an analog block, the one purpose is supply of an analog supply signal to the analog block, the another purpose is indication of entry into a scan mode, and the another block is a digital block.
- 30 15. The method according to Claim 14, further comprising:
prior to the digital block using the analog supply signal, resolving voltage rails of the analog supply signal with other voltage rails of a digital supply signal for the digital block.

16. The method according to Claim 15, wherein resolving voltage rails further comprises in response to the scan mode being activated upon a high value:

setting the analog supply signal to a low analog value;

inverting, by an inverter, the low analog value to a high digital value; and

5 providing the high digital value to the digital block to signify entry into the scan mode.

17. The method according to Claim 16, wherein alternatively the scan mode is activated upon a low value and further comprising:

10 inverting, by another inverter, the high digital value to a low digital value; and

providing the low digital value to the digital block to signify entry into the scan mode.

18. The method according to Claim 17, further comprising:

15 in the event that the analog supply signal is much lower than the digital supply signal, setting a trip point of the inverter to a lower-than-normal value.